



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **KC WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO WIRE FRAUD, MONEY LAUNDERING**

### **CONSPIRACIES TARGETED ST. JOSEPH FIRM, BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., woman pleaded guilty in federal court today to participating in a conspiracy to defraud a St. Joseph, Mo., business and a money laundering conspiracy.

**Marlyn Wilkes**, 45, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to the charges contained in a Feb. 9, 2005, federal indictment.

**Wilkes** was employed by DataCore, a database marketing company in Kansas City, from 1997 until March 21, 2001. Datacore fired **Wilkes** after discovering that she had been embezzling funds, Graves said. During the seven months prior to her termination, **Wilkes** caused 70 fraudulent checks to be issued, totaling \$72,606, as well as additional checks that were never cashed because of DataCore's discovery of the scheme.

DataCore manages and administers rebate programs for its clients by receiving rebate information from consumers, entering product purchase data into the DataCore computer system, and providing rebate checks back to the consumers. **Wilkes** served as the program manager for Boehringer Ingelheim, a St. Joseph business that was a DataCore client in 2000 and 2001.

**Wilkes** defrauded Boehringer, Graves explained, by either filling out rebate applications in the names of fictitious customers, which would then be entered into the DataCore computer system, or entering such false information directly into the DataCore computer system herself. By doing so, **Wilkes** caused pre-print check reports and related approval documents to be transmitted between the companies by fax.

After the approval process had been completed and DataCore printed the fraudulent checks, **Wilkes** took the checks home with her and gave them to a friend (not charged in the indictment), who from Aug. 31, 2000, to Feb. 7, 2001, conducted numerous financial transactions using various bank accounts in Missouri and Kansas to transfer the funds in order to conceal and disguise the source and ownership of the proceeds of the wire fraud scheme. After cashing the checks, her friend returned about half of the proceeds to **Wilkes**.

Under federal statutes, **Wilkes** could be subject to a sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000 and an order of restitution. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Curt Bohling. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)